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so that ere long we may expect a revised Check-List fashioned upon modern lines, we heartily welcome it, and extend our thanks to the authors for it.

L. J.

Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California. By George Willett. Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 7. Hollywood, California. Published by the Club, July 25, 1912.

The territory which this list covers "comprises all of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, Los Angeles County south and west from the Liebre Mountains, Sierra Pelona and Sierra San Gabriel, San Bernardino County south and west from Sierra Madre and San Bernardino ranges, all of Orange County, Riverside County west from the San Jacinto range, and San Diego County west from the Volcan and Cuyamaca ranges; also the eight islands of the Santa Barbara group, namely San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, Santa Barbara, San Nicolas, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente. In some cases I have deemed it advisable to refer to records outside the limits as described above in order to show certain connecting features in distribution or migration."

The order followed is that of the 1910 A. O. U. Check-List, except in a few instances where the distribution of certain species do not seem to coincide with the Check-List. The conservatism of the list as here presented is commendable. At that the main list includes 377 names, with an added hypothetical list of 18. The list is concerned with relative abundance, distribution both altitudinal and latitudinal, place and time of breeding of breeding birds, times of migration, and such citations of literature as seem pertinent. Occasional notes of other character add interest to the list. Paper, typography and workmanship are fully equal to the high standard which the Cooper Club is so noted for. The paper is a welcome addition to faunal literature, as bringing this region down to date.

L. J.

The Present and Future Status of the California Valley Quail. By Harold C. Bryant, Fellow in Applied Zoölogy on the Fish and Game Commission Foundation in the University of California. With Map and Diagram. Reprinted from The Condor, Vol. XIV, July, 1912, pp. 131-142.

The author concludes, after a careful examination of facts, that the decrease of these birds in some sections calls for conservative action lest in such sections the species be exterminated. In sections where there has been no change and where there has been an increase he recommends that game laws which will operate to maintain a proper balance be enacted. It is no kindness to wild ani-

mals to permit them to increase to the point where crowding must inevitably result in a decreased efficiency in meeting the demands of life, for in such case there is real danger to the species.

L. J.

A Revision of the Subspecies of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens* [Linnaeus]). By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture. No. 1916.—From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. 42, pages 529-577. Published August 29, 1912. Washington.

To the six previously existing forms of this heron there are here added twelve subspecies, all south of the United States. In addition to the study of this species, and as a necessary preliminary to it, Mr. Oberholser found it necessary to determine the exact status of *Butorides brunescens* (Lembeye), which he concludes is a good species, occurring in Cuba with the form which inhabits Cuba, here newly named *Butorides virescens cubanus*. The evident thoroughness of this revision inspires the confidence that the splitting of this species of heron into subspecies is settled for years to come.

L. J.

#### THE ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS.

The Ontario Natural Science Bulletin, No. 7, 1912. Journal of the Wellington Field Naturalists' Club, Guelph, Ontario.

The bird notes in this excellent annual are: The Bartramian Sandpiper Breeds near Guelph, Herbert Groh; The Yellow-breasted Chat at Alma, Ont., John Allan, Jr.; Notes on the Winter Birds at Guelph, Ontario, in 1911-12, E. W. Calvert; A. Late Migration of the Evening Grosbeak in Ontario, A. B. Klugh; A Chipping Sparrow's Nest on the Ground, J. W. Noble; A Large Colony of Bank Swallows' Nests, J. W. Noble; Spring Bird Notes from Oakville, Ontario, E. W. Calvert.

L. J.

THE AUK. October, 1912. Vol. XXIX, No. 4.

The Freezing of Cayuga Lake in Its Relation to Bird Life. By Alvin R. Cahn, four plates.

The Niagara Swan Trap. By J. H. Fleming.

Methods of Estimating the Contents of Bird Stomachs. By W. L. McAtee.

The Breeding Birds of Southern Center County, Pennsylvania. By Richard C. Harlow.